



Minuteman Assessment

Acton Finance Committee



Minuteman Agreement

- MM contract approved by towns in 1970 prorates operating costs based on pupils.
- Subsequent educational reform legislation gives control of minimum town contribution to House Ways and Means and requires ***unanimous*** agreement by towns in district (Minuteman) in order to change assessment process.
- Arlington comes out ahead and always vetoes any proposal to change assessment process.
- Any town's request to withdraw from Minuteman must be all approved by all towns in the district.



Town Assessment Calculations

- S = School Budget for Minuteman
- A = Aid from State
- H = House Ways and Means (HWM)
Minimum charge to each town
- R = Remainder to be allocated to each town

- $S = A + H + R$



What Happened?

- FY04 MM Acton assessment developed at \$780K in conjunction with MM.
- On Apr 7, 2003, Acton asked to support a higher \$824K assessment. BOS, FC and TM approves.
- On May 2, 2003, Acton was informed that assessment was increased to \$919K. One cause: HWM mandated town minimums.



FY04 HWM Min* For Member Towns

	<u>\$/Pupil **</u>	<u>Pupil</u>	<u>HWM MIN</u>	<u>Remaining Allocation</u>	<u>Total Assessment</u>
ACTON	12,226	41	501,272	418,283	919,555
ARLINGTON	6,895	140	965,245	1,042,898	2,008,143
BELMONT	14,484	27	391,059	206,004	597,063
BOLTON	11,530	15	172,947	178,488	351,435
BOXBOROUGH	1,826	11	20,086	101,510	121,596
CARLISLE	7,681	7	53,765	58,881	112,646
CONCORD	19,142	12	229,706	96,200	325,906
DOVER	15,087	2	30,174	20,451	50,625
LANCASTER	13,372	34	454,637	313,022	767,659
LEXINGTON	12,038	43	517,628	383,725	901,353
LINCOLN	10,139	7	70,970	64,058	135,028
NEEDHAM	7,252	22	159,545	184,014	343,559
STOW	9,175	51	467,925	371,976	839,901
SUDBURY	5,458	20	109,159	171,973	281,132
WAYLAND	9,230	9	83,072	95,378	178,450
WESTON	4,621	2	9,242	22,575	31,817
			4,236,432	3,729,436	7,965,868

* Source: <http://finance1.doe.mass.edu> and Minuteman data

** \$/pupil derived from HWM/pupils



FY04 Minuteman Assessment Increases From FY03

- Towns in the Minuteman District have received unequal assessments in relationship to enrollment.
- At the macro level, without considering SPED, the most obvious examples are (change from last year):
 - Acton **\$147,842** with 4 additional students
 - Belmont **\$92,544** with 1 fewer students
 - Lancaster **\$255,937** with 6 additional students
 - Arlington **-\$282,219** with 6 additional students
 - Sudbury* **-\$97,788** with 3 additional students
 - Boxborough **-\$82,569** with no change in students

* Reduced middle school program

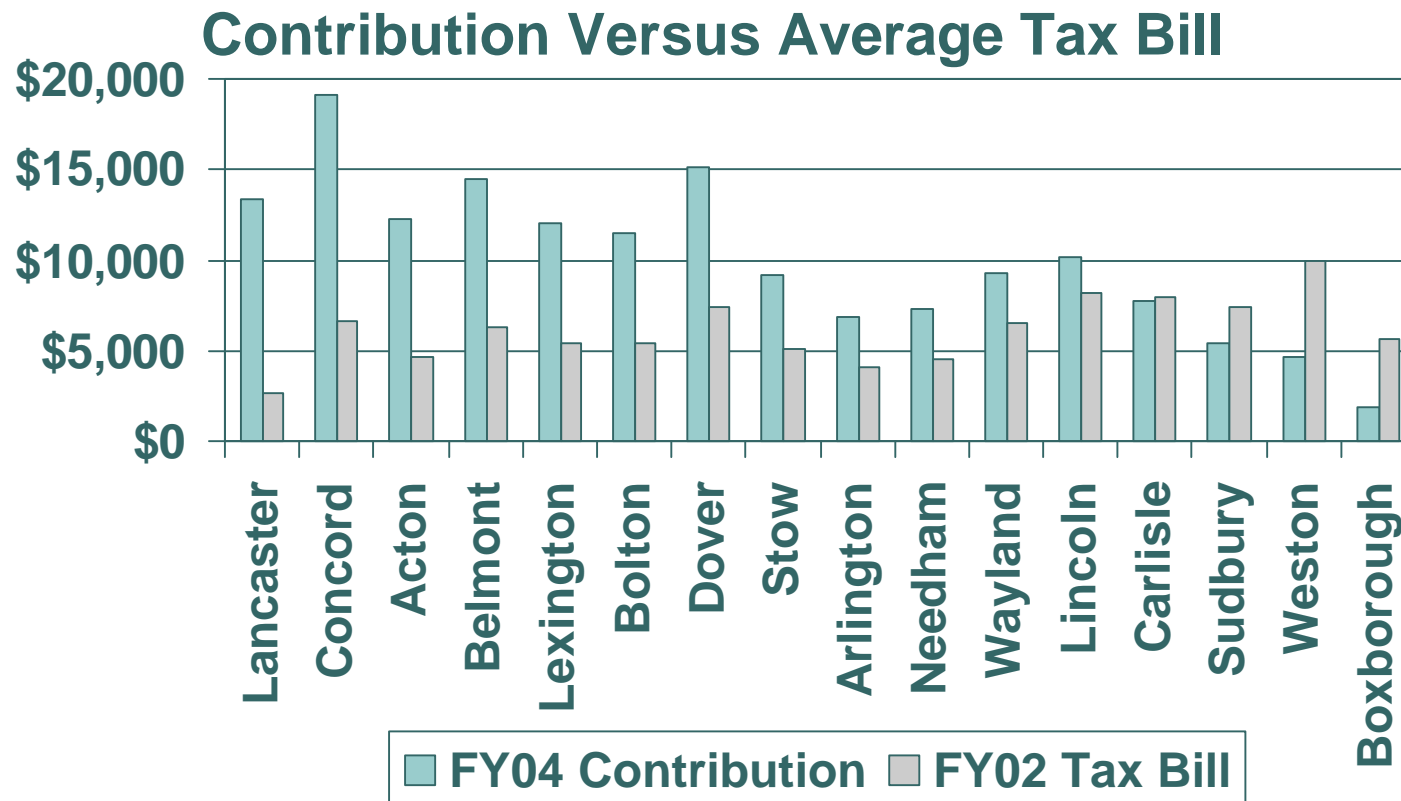


FY04 MM Assessment Details All Towns

FY04 Chapter 70 FY04 Summary, Minuteman Regional High School

Member City/Town	FY03 Foundation Enrollment	FY04 Foundation Enrollment	FY03 Net Minimum Contribution	FY04 Net Minimum Contribution	FY03 Assessment	FY04 Assessment	FY03-04 Change	\$/pupil	Pupil Change
ACTON	37	41	457,629	501,272	771,713	919,555	147,842	22,428	4
ARLINGTON	134	140	1,131,407	965,245	2,290,362	2,008,143	(282,219)	14,344	6
BELMONT	28	27	378,885	391,059	504,519	597,063	92,544	22,113	(1)
BOLTON	12	15	139,770	172,947	269,898	351,435	81,537	23,429	3
BOXBOROUGH	11	11	50,710	20,086	204,165	121,596	(82,569)	11,054	0
CARLISLE	6	7	40,099	53,765	87,297	112,646	25,349	16,092	1
CONCORD	16	12	226,195	229,706	269,249	325,906	56,657	27,159	(4)
DOVER	3	2	35,176	30,174	61,324	50,625	(10,699)	25,313	(1)
LANCASTER	28	34	435,675	454,637	511,722	767,659	255,937	22,578	6
LEXINGTON	41	43	457,705	517,628	843,567	901,353	57,786	20,962	2
LINCOLN	6	7	65,838	70,970	104,672	135,028	30,356	19,290	1
NEEDHAM	24	22	170,342	159,545	434,994	343,559	(91,435)	15,616	(2)
STOW	49	51	561,969	467,925	793,982	839,901	45,919	16,469	2
SUDBURY	17	20	111,489	109,159	378,920	281,132	(97,788)	14,057	3
WAYLAND	4	9	21,656	83,072	86,998	178,450	91,452	19,828	5
WESTON	3	2	25,529	9,242	67,951	31,817	(36,134)	15,909	(1)
District Total	419	443		4,236,432	7,681,333	7,965,868			24

Minimum Contributions Do Not Reflect Ability To Pay



How would assessment change with equal per pupil HWM charge?

	<u>\$/Pupil</u>	<u>Pupil</u>	<u>FAIR MIN</u>	<u>Remaining Allocated</u>	<u>Total Assessment</u>	<u>Change</u>
ACTON	9,563	41	392,085	418,283	810,368	(109,187)
ARLINGTON	9,563	140	1,338,827	1,042,898	2,381,725	373,582
BELMONT	9,563	27	258,202	206,004	464,206	(132,857)
BOLTON	9,563	15	143,446	178,488	321,934	(29,501)
BOXBOROUGH	9,563	11	105,194	101,510	206,704	85,108
CARLISLE	9,563	7	66,941	58,881	125,822	13,176
CONCORD	9,563	12	114,757	96,200	210,957	(114,949)
DOVER	9,563	2	19,126	20,451	39,577	(11,048)
LANCASTER	9,563	34	325,144	313,022	638,166	(129,493)
LEXINGTON	9,563	43	411,211	383,725	794,936	(106,417)
LINCOLN	9,563	7	66,941	64,058	130,999	(4,029)
NEEDHAM	9,563	22	210,387	184,014	394,401	50,842
STOW	9,563	51	487,716	371,976	859,692	19,791
SUDBURY	9,563	20	191,261	171,973	363,234	82,102
WAYLAND	9,563	9	86,067	95,378	181,445	2,995
WESTON	9,563	2	19,126	22,575	41,701	9,884
		443	4,236,432	3,729,436	7,965,868	0



FY04 Fair Assessment Comparison

Member City/Town	FY03 Foundation Enrollment	FY04 Foundation Enrollment	FY03 Net Minimum Contribution	FY04 Net Minimum Contribution	FY03 Assessment	FY04 Assessment	"Fair Assessment"
ACTON	37	41	457,629	501,272	771,713	919,555	810,368
ARLINGTON	134	140	1,131,407	965,245	2,290,362	2,008,143	2,381,725
BELMONT	28	27	378,885	391,059	504,519	597,063	464,206
BOLTON	12	15	139,770	172,947	269,898	351,435	321,934
BOXBOROUGH	11	11	50,710	20,086	204,165	121,596	206,704
CARLISLE	6	7	40,099	53,765	87,297	112,646	125,822
CONCORD	16	12	226,195	229,706	269,249	325,906	210,957
DOVER	3	2	35,176	30,174	61,324	50,625	39,577
LANCASTER	28	34	435,675	454,637	511,722	767,659	638,166
LEXINGTON	41	43	457,705	517,628	843,567	901,353	794,936
LINCOLN	6	7	65,838	70,970	104,672	135,028	130,999
NEEDHAM	24	22	170,342	159,545	434,994	343,559	394,401
STOW	49	51	561,969	467,925	793,982	839,901	859,692
SUDBURY	17	20	111,489	109,159	378,920	281,132	363,234
WAYLAND	4	9	21,656	83,072	86,998	178,450	181,445
WESTON	3	2	25,529	9,242	67,951	31,817	41,701
District Total	419	443		4,236,432	7,681,333	7,965,868	7,965,868



The Future

- Acton will continue to support Minuteman but only with fair assessment to member towns.
- Acton's Board of Selectman, Finance Committee and School Committees are jointly and cooperatively exploring all alternatives and options.



Action Requested

- HWM and/or DOE minimum calculations and formula fully disclosed and transparent to all towns.
- Corrective action to FY04 HWM minimums taken by the responsible parties. Future HWM minimums set fairly.
- Legislation enacted that establishes rule by 2/3 vote of school district. MGL Ch70, 16B requires **unanimous** approval.
- Aid from Pothole Fund.